

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2002

Marines

Official Magazine of the Marine Corps



Answering A Nation's Call

A Marine of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC) Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, mans an M-220 Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missile gun during the Combined Arms Landing Force Exercise (CALFEX) of Cobra Gold 2002. Photo by Sgt. Stephen D'Alessio





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"The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, directed by Col. Timothy W. Foley, opens its Summer concert series, with the National Anthem, at the Sylvan Theater, near the Washington Monument. Photo by SSgt. Kevin Dolloson

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"The President's Own": Marine Band plays the music America loves to hear

The Marine Band has played for every president since John Adams, and at every presidential inauguration since President Thomas Jefferson's inauguration in 1801. Sometime thereafter, Jefferson gave the Marine Band the title, "The President's Own."

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Marines recount experience, life since September 11

Media outlets, politicians and celebrities called those who took part in the aftermath of the attacks "heroes." Yet when asked, none of the people felt what they did was heroic. "Marines" asked some of those involved in the rescue efforts on and after Sept. 11 how that day changed their lives.



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Marine officer recovers Marine Corps Flag from the office of the Counsel for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The office was one of the many that were hit during the terrorist attack, Sept. 11. Photo by Petty Officer First Class Kevin Rimrodt

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Single Marines storm Disney World

The Single Marine Program has been enhanced since 1995 to better reach single Marines who often find themselves bored in the barracks with nothing to do, and nowhere to go.





46 corps shots

A star-spangled corvette sporting an American flag enters the Pentagon parking lot as part of the "Stars and Stripes Corvettes Across America" caravan. About 100 corvettes participated in this leg of the cross-country trek to pay tribute to those lost in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. More than 3,000 cars took part in the journey that began June 20 at the Peace Arch in Blayne, Wash., near the United States/Canada border and culminated at the World Trade Center July 4. Photo by Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher

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Marines (USPS 013-867) is published quarterly by the Division of Public Affairs, Marine Corps News Branch, HQMC, 2 Navy Annex Room 3134, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. Periodicals-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing stations.

The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee.

All photos not credited are official USMC Photos.

Postmaster: Send change of address to:

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code AREB, 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775.

Reader Comments: Send to:

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAMCN, 2 Navy Annex Room 3134, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775.

Internet: Visit Marines Magazine Online at <http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>.

Subscription Information

Marine Corps Units: Contact the Directives Control Point (normally in the Adjutants Office) to request that your unit's Publications Listing (PL)

(PCN74000000200) be increased by the appropriate number of copies (1 copy per 5 Marines)

Non-Marine Corps Units: Send a fax or letter

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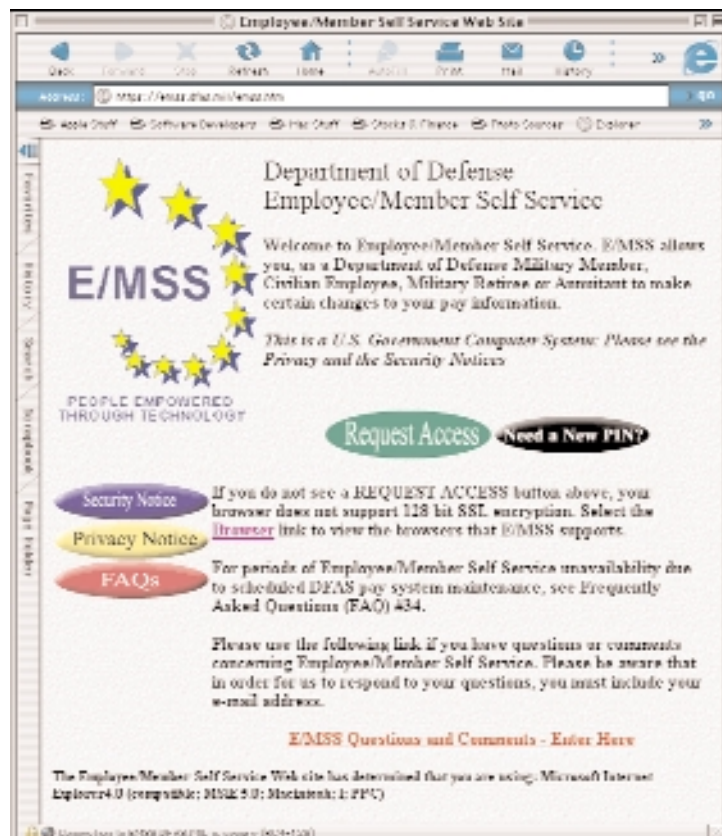
Commandant of the Marine Corps (ARDE), 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. The letter must contain a complete mailing address, point of contact, phone number, and number of copies required. Fax the request to (703) 614-1874.

Personal/Civilian Subscriptions: Request your one-year subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402. Personal subscriptions can be ordered via the internet at www.usmc.mil/order, or by calling (202) 512-1800.

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Marines



July-September 2002



From the editor

Every aspect of our lives was touched Sept. 11.

Ordinary men and women became extraordinarily heroic as they moved through the ashes, fire and smoke assisting those in danger and comforting the inconsolable. Firefighters, police officers and other selfless members of our society rushed to the aid of those in peril.

The Marines were no different. At Ground Zero and at the Pentagon, Marines were among the first on scene, bringing order to the chaos. Like everyone who stepped up to the plate that morning, the Marines focused on the mission - saving lives - and never wavered.

But when the initial smoke cleared, our services were sought out by the nation for a larger mission. Americans looked to us as the delivery system for the justice they needed as a way of dealing with the horrors of the day.

And as we have for nearly 227 years, we answered America's call.

Even as President Bush told us to pack our bags and be ready, forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Units were already in their war rooms around the globe anticipating the words, "Let's roll!"

And "roll" we did. Millions of dollars of assets and countless thoughts and prayers followed the thousands of Marines into the heart of the al-Qaida homeland. Places like Kandahar, Kabul, Mazar e Sharif and Tora Bora became household names.

Air strikes, firefights and American resolve crushed the terrorists' backbones. Working with our sister services and allied nations, we crippled the al-Qaida network.

And the hunt continues.

This edition of "Marines" pays tribute to the Devildogs who made a difference Sept. 11. It pays tribute to those who continue the fight - with unwavering devotion - to scour the world of the terrorist plague and safeguard the blanket of security under which our nation sleeps each night.

As you read through this issue of "Marines," take special note of the new look and new sections. In "gouge" read feature stories by Marine Corps News staff members; "soundoff" offers a basic layout of the issue, as well as letters to the editor that we feel everyone should read; "scuttlebutt" explores the techno side of the Corps and gives scoop on what's new that you may not have heard; "from the trenches" is where you can read about what Marines are doing around the Corps; "loud and clear" lists quotes from and about Marines and the latest SemperToons cartoon; "on liberty" covers recent movie and book reviews, as well as a Marine Corps puzzle; "saved rounds" gives a glimpse of hot issues that made it in just before the magazine went to press; "corps shots" is a photographic glimpse of what's happening in the Corps; and "incoming" previews feature stories for next quarter's issue.

We hope you like the changes and welcome comments at mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil

Semper Fidelis

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Dolloson".

Kevin Dolloson
Staff Sgt., USMC

A young Marine restores my faith

Letter to the editor by Ann Baker, a Huntington Beach real-estate agent
Reprinted with permission of The Orange County Register, copyrighted 2002

It was our normal Thursday morning business meeting at our real-estate office. No big deal. Before the meeting we hung around the bagel table, as usual, with our coffee. He stood aside, looking a little shy and awkward and very young, a new face in a room full of extroverted salespeople. An average looking guy, maybe 5 feet 8 inches. A clean-cut, sweet-faced kid. I went over to chat with him. Maybe he was a new salesman?

He said he was just back from Kabul, Afghanistan. A Marine. Our office (and a local school) had been supportive by sending letters to him and other troops, which he had posted on the American Embassy door in Kabul. He stood guard there for four months and was shot at daily.

He had come to our office to thank us for our support, for all the letters during those scary times. I couldn't believe my ears. He wanted to thank us? We should be thanking him. But how? How can I ever show him my appreciation?

At the end of the sales meeting, he stepped quietly forward, no incredible hulk. As a matter of fact, he looked for all the world 15 years old to me. (The older I get, the younger they look.)

This young Marine, this clean-faced boy, had no qualms stepping up to the plate and dodging bullets so that I might enjoy the freedom to live my peaceful life in the land of the free. No matter the risk. Suddenly the most stressful concerns of my life seemed as nothing, my complacency flew right out the window with his every word. Somewhere, somehow, he had taken the words honor, courage and commitment into his very soul and laid his life on the line daily for me and us. A man of principle. He wants to do it. Relishes it. And he came to thank us? For a few letters? I fought back the tears as he spoke so briefly and softly.

He walked forward to our manager and placed a properly folded American flag in his hands. It had flown over the Embassy. He said thanks again. You could hear a pin drop. As I looked around I saw red faces everywhere fighting back the tears.

In a heartbeat, my disillusionment with young people today quickly vanished. In ordinary homes, in ordinary towns, kids like him are growing up proud to be an American and willing to die for it. Wow. We'll frame the flag and put it in the lobby. He only came to my office once, for just a few minutes. But I realize I rubbed shoulders with greatness in the flesh and in the twinkling of an eye my life is forever changed. His name is Michael Mendez, a corporal in the USMC. We are a great nation. We know because the makings of it walked into my office that day.

Cpl. Michael J. Mendez is an infantryman assigned to L Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C.



Cpl. Michael J. Mendez prepares to strike his opponent during Marine Corps Martial Arts training here July 30. Mendez, 21, of Huntington Beach, Calif., is an infantry fire team leader recently returned from security duty in Afghanistan. He is currently assigned to Company L, 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.
Photo by Sgt. Andrew D. Pomykal





SSgt. Thomas Maloy, on timpani, plays with precision as the Marine Band opens its Summer concert series on the Mall. SSgt. Kenneth Wolin, on bass drum, and MSgt. Steven Searfoss (right), on snare drum, play along in the background.

Photo by SSgt. Kevin Dolloson

"The President's Own"

Marine Band plays the music
America loves to hear

by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
Editor, Marines Magazine
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

Take 143 of the nation's finest musicians, enlist them in the United States Marine Corps, and what do you get? "The President's Own," U.S. Marine Band.

The Marine Band began as a fledgling band of fifes and drums through an act of Congress signed July 11, 1798 by President John Adams. It is recognized as America's oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is to provide music for the president of the United States and the commandant of the Marine Corps.

August 21, 1800 marked the Band's first public performance in Washington and in 1801 the band established its permanent residence at 8th & I Marine Barracks, Washington - the "oldest post of the Corps."

The Marine Band has played for every president since John Adams, and at every presidential inauguration since President Thomas Jefferson's inauguration in 1801. Sometime thereafter, Jefferson gave the Marine Band the title, "The President's Own."

Over the past 204 years, the Marine Band has provided the musical backdrop for many important events in American history and has become one of the country's most symbolic living monuments.

Members performed "Hail to the Chief" for the first time for a living president in 1828 when they performed for President John Quincy Adams at the groundbreaking for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. About a decade later, due to the initiative of First Ladies Julia Gardner Tyler and Sarah Polk, it became the traditional music for presidential appearances.

As the band's popularity began to grow through public concerts on the White House grounds, their exposure became more diverse. For example, it accompanied President Abraham Lincoln on a special train to Pennsylvania for the delivery of his immortal Gettysburg Address.



By the late 1800s, sixteen leaders had contributed to the development of the Marine Band, but none has left as great a mark as the 17th director, John Philip Sousa, dubbed the "March King."

During Sousa's tenure as director, he wrote marches that made him famous, like "Semper Fidelis" - traditionally known as the official march of the Marine Corps. He dedicated this march to the officers and men of the United States Marine Corps and proclaimed later in life that he felt it to be his finest composition.

The Marine Band also started making sound recordings, and by 1897, 400 different titles were available for sale, placing Sousa's marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded.

Due to the increase in popularity, Sousa was anxious to take his Marine Band on tour. The first national concert tour took place in 1891, and the second tour, which proved to be even more successful, followed in 1892.

As radio became more popular, the Marine Band grew in size and reputation. In 1931, the Marine Band began the popular radio series, "The Dream Hour," which aired weekly on NBC until 1960.

While the spirit of the music and performance has not changed in more than two centuries, technology and modern travel have taken the band across the United States and over oceans and continents.

Whether performing for South Lawn arrival ceremonies, state dinners or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House more than 300 times a year. The band also performs in about 500 public and official performances annually.

Today, the Marine Band has grown to 143 of the nation's finest musicians and professional support staff. The musicians enlist in the Marine Corps and start their service as staff sergeants.

The musicians are selected at auditions similar to those of major symphony orchestras. Candidates perform behind a screen to ensure anonymity, and the audition committee makes selections based on musical ability and subsequent personal interviews.

The process was not always as structured, said Col. Timothy W. Foley, the band's 26th director. Foley auditioned in 1968.

"Auditions were usually done over a period of a month," he said. "People were scheduled to come in and play by appointment, which meant that different people were hearing the auditions and the judges would have to compare notes."

"When I auditioned as a clarinet player, I came in on the last day," said Foley with a smile. "The judges had heard about 60 auditions already, and I was lucky. I always say I was one of the last people to be heard, therefore, I was freshest in their minds."

Upon joining the band, Foley quickly became a featured soloist and served as conductor and clarinetist in numerous Marine Band chamber music concerts. He was named assistant director in 1979, and in 1980 he developed and implemented the band's current audition system.

"I felt we should try to model our auditions more on the system that the symphony orchestra used, and that was to do it all in one day," said Foley.

Following selection and successful completion of a physical examination, musicians enlist in the Marine Corps under a 4-year contract "for duty with the U.S. Marine Band only," guaranteeing exclusive assignment to "The President's Own."





Col. Timothy W. Foley, Director, U.S. Marine Band, conducts the band in several musical pieces, during a performance which kicks off the band's Summer concert series on the Mall. Several tourists stop to enjoy the free concert at the Sylvan Theater, near the Washington Monument.

Photo by SSgt. Kevin Dolloson

Staff Sgt. Vicki Gotcher, clarinetist, from Tyler, Texas, started her musical career very early in life and always knew she would have a musical career.

"I've probably always known that I wanted to be a musician because my mom was a musician, and she taught me a lot," said Gotcher. "I started playing clarinet when I was 11 and within a year, I knew that I wanted to be a performer."

"The opportunity to play in this band is an honor," added Gotcher. "I consider this to be the best band in the world, and it's a great honor to play in the often historic events at the White House, for foreign dignitaries, the president, and sometimes celebrities. I would never get this opportunity in any other job."

There are no degree requirements for joining the band, but most members are graduates of the nation's finest music schools, said Staff Sgt. Bonnie Eiche, the band's public affairs chief.

"Nearly 60 percent have advanced degrees in music, and more than 90 percent are career professionals who serve for 20 years or more," Eiche said.

"We like to compare the training and preparation for Marine Band musicians to that of professional athletes," Eiche said. "It's very intense, very focused, and it starts at an early age. By the time our members win an audition here, they've been playing since childhood, taking private lessons, practicing extensively on their own and in various ensembles, working on advanced degrees - basically doing everything they can to be the best in their field."

Master Sgt. Peter J. Wilson's training began at the early age of 2. Both his parents were musicians and his mother taught him and his brother how to play the violin.

"My mom was a violin teacher, and she taught in the home, so I heard a lot of the songs from the books that she used to teach me," said Wilson. "That's how I got started and I've been playing ever since, so that's about 30 years."

When the routine practice of the day has ended for most of the band members, they often take their work home with them to prepare for special performances.

"During our concert series, we're playing a little more challenging music than we might play at the White House," said Wilson. "So in order to keep our playing at a high level, we all have to be at home practicing that music beforehand. Then we come in and have rehearsals to fit it all together."

These Marines personify the Marine Corps ethos of honor, courage and commitment through their high standard of performance.

"I feel like I have a responsibility to the band and the other players to keep up the high standards of playing," said Gotcher. "There are so many traditions, and such great history in the band, that I have to make sure that I keep up my end of the bargain."

"I have enormous pride in working for this organization," said Wilson, a native of Morgantown, W.Va. "It's the smallest things, like performing a patriotic opener, that mean the most to me. We feel the appreciation from the public."

Col. Foley has participated in musical performances for every inauguration since 1968, state dinners, world leaders such as Boris Yeltsin and Nelson Mandela, and most memorably, the Marine Band's bicentennial in 1998. During the yearlong celebration, he led "The President's Own" for the inaugural ceremonies of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati; he conducted a command performance at the White House, hosted by the president and first lady; and he led the band in a gala concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

"This organization is an integral part of the history of the nation," said Foley. "We communicate through music what the Marine Corps is all about. We are a part of the same ethos."

"The President's Own" has grown by leaps and bounds throughout its 200-year existence and appears to be holding its own well into its third century.

"I see the band being sort of a musical voice of our country," said Foley. "Because the patriotic music that we have always played is more important now (since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001) than it's ever been.

"People express themselves through music. It's one of the ways in which we express feelings, and we all have very intense feelings about what is happening right now. So, I see the band as a way of expressing things which really can't be expressed in any other way."

Patriotism among Marine Band fans often motivates them to send Col. Foley their own music, he said. He hears from people all over the country who want the band to play their compositions.

"I get something in the mail almost every day from people who write music," he said. "Almost invariably, it's really heartfelt, and in terms of the feeling that's put into it, it's incomparable. I wish we could play everything we get."

The Marine Band will always be an organization that serves the emotional needs of our public, said Foley.

"Whether it's playing at the dedication of the Gettysburg Cemetery, or playing a memorial service in the Capitol rotunda, as we did on Sept. 12, the future is what the band has always been. You just find new circumstances that continue to give the band its meaning."

While President Thomas Jefferson called the band "The President's Own," Sousa referred to it as "The National Band," Foley said. As its leader, Sousa realized the importance of sharing this national resource.

Through the years, the band and its repertoire have grown, but the tradition of bringing the music to people of America has remained unchanged, Foley said.

The Marine Band completes its Summer Concert Series on the National Mall in August, and switches its focus to preparing for the Northeastern United States concert tour in October and November.

For more information on the Marine Band, including the latest concert schedule, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil or call (202) 433-4011.

"Through the years, the band and its repertoire have grown, but the tradition of bringing the music to people of America has remained unchanged."

- Col. Timothy W. Foley,
Director, U.S. Marine Band





The Modern Leatherneck

"It isn't easy being green"

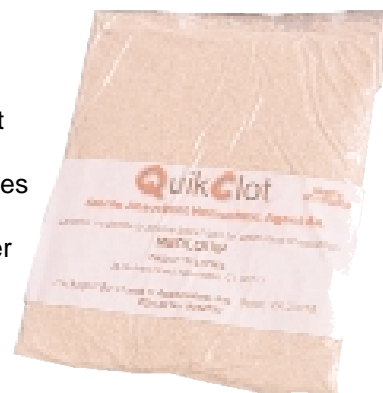
— Kermit the Frog

As Marines we know how Kermit feels. But, when the light is at its dimmest and the morning chill its coldest, it's nice to know there are folks out there somewhere working on ways to make it all better. From remote controlled cars that can "see" the enemy, to high-tech bandages that can stop some of the toughest bleeding, the Corps is looking at some high-speed "stuff" that should make life as an amphibian much easier.

"Clots" that?

The Marine Corps Warfighting Lab is testing a new blood-clotting agent that will allow Marines to stop profusely bleeding wounds within a matter of seconds. The granulated powder looks like kitty litter, or dry sweep, and comes in a 3.5 ounce plastic packet designed to easily fit into a first aid kit.

The packet is easy to use. Simply tear open the pouch, pour the powder directly into the wound and, "voila!" The bleeding stops. Surgeons can easily remove the inert material and it poses no risk of disease or allergies.



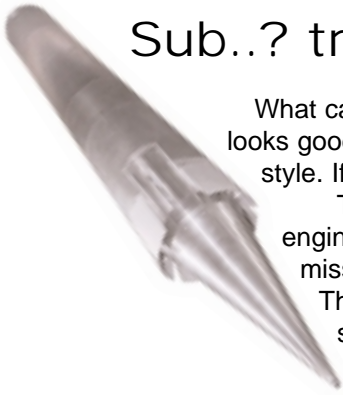
"Seein' 'round the corner"

Combine a remote control car with "eyes," "ears," and a high-tech "sensitive" side, throw in a carrying handle for GP and what do you get? The ability to conduct reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition, while keeping Marines safely out of the line of fire.

The Corps' new Dragon Runner is a 15.5 inch long, 16-pound piece of gear, designed to enhance the abilities of units in urban environments to acquire better pictures of the battlespace. Small unit leaders can use the Dragon Runner's 4-inch video display and joy-stick type controller to manipulate the system and get real-time feedback from its on-board sensors, microphone, and video camera. Plus, the gear can be tossed up stairs and over walls for rapid deployment.



Sub..? trans..? super..? hypersonic



What can cruise from Atlanta to Miami in less than a seven minutes, is sleek in design and looks good in stainless steel? If your answer is "a tricked out Chevy Impala," we admire your style. If your answer is "the fully integrated ScramJet Missile," we're really impressed.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has successfully tested a new engine for a future high-speed strike weapon. The engine will be used to flight test a missile demonstrator able to cruise at speeds up to Mach 6.5 with a range of 600 miles.

The missile is being developed to be compatible with launch from surface ships, submarines as well as aircraft. Mach 6 test flights of the new missile are slated for 2005.

Corps' new transport in for the long-haul

Move over, little dog, the big ol' dog is moving in. The new Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, also known as the 7-ton truck, is taking over as the Corps' choice for hauling assets.

The MTRV, pictured at left beside one of its predecessors from the 5-ton M939/M809 truck series, is built like Marine gear should be — versatile, according to the manufacturer, Oshkosh.

The MTRV will operate in climactic extremes from minus 50 F to 125 F while carrying a 7.1-ton payload cross-country, or up to 15 tons on primary and secondary roads. When carrying its maximum cross-country load, the MTRV can traverse a 60 percent grade and a 30 percent side slope. It can ford five feet of water, travel 65 mph on paved surfaces, and has an on-road cruising range of 300 miles.

Other features include: Anti-Lock brakes; automatic traction control; all-aluminum cab; corrosion resistant skins; a central tire inflation system — monitored from the cab — that allows the tires to withstand a puncture from a .50 caliber round long enough to make it to a safe zone; and a Caterpillar C-12 Adam III engine with 425 turbocharged horses at 1,800 rpm. To make sure all these features are running smoothly, the vehicles even have on-board diagnostic systems. What kid wouldn't want one of these babies?



M3M spans M2 — hard

The new M3M .50-caliber machine gun being tested by the Marine Corps is proving to be a better weapon than the M2, according to the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab in Quantico, Va.

In a side-by-side demonstration of the soft-mounted M3M against the current M2 vehicle mount, the M3M achieved far more first-round hits on targets, said Capt. Timothy Walker, officer in charge of the Warfighting Lab's Project Rifleman. The machine gun has a cone of fire about the size of a hula hoop at 600 meters and the 600-round ammunition capacity of the linked system eliminates the need for time-consuming ammunition box changes.

The M3M system is a Browning M2-based heavy machine gun that operates from an open bolt position and fires a cyclic rate of 1,100 rounds per minute. The open-bolt design prevents cook-offs - not chili cook-offs, but premature ammunition explosions in the weapon's chamber.





Scholarship established to honor fallen Marine



The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Educational Foundation has established a \$2,000 annual scholarship in memory of Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters.

Winters and six other Marines died Jan. 9, when their KC-130 aircraft crashed into a mountain near Shamsi, Pakistan. The plane was on a multi-stop mission that originated from Jacobabad, Pakistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Winters, a radio operator based with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 at Miramar, Calif, was the only Marine on the plane who wasn't a member of the crew. The 25-year-old native of Gary, Ind., joined the Marine Corps in 1997.

Applications for the Jeannette L. Winters Memorial Scholarship are requested from active duty Marines or Marine veterans who are honorably discharged and currently attending colleges or universities in the United States enrolled as either part-time or full-time undergraduate students in an eligible degree program.

For more information or to obtain an application form, please contact the foundation office at 703-631-6149 or visit the AFCEA website at www.afcea.org.

Application deadline is September 15, 2002.

Spouses get free degree

Military spouses are now eligible for \$3.7 million in educational scholarships.

The program affords spouses of service members the opportunity to complete an undergraduate degree free of charge, providing that the sponsor is a student at American Military University. Specific requirements include: The spouse is eligible; the spouse must earn and maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5; and all other academic policies must be adhered to according to the AMU Student Handbook.

The scholarship also covers AMU undergraduate tuition of up to \$750 per course, required books, and \$75 transfer credit evaluation, if applicable.

AMU began awarding 2,500 scholarships in June for the Summer/Fall 2002 semesters.

For more information regarding the Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship, call AMU toll free at

1-877-468-6268, ext. 857 or email spouses@amunet.edu.



'Uwa! Uwa! Uwa!'

"Come and get us!" That's the battle cry of the Philippine Marines who published their official Web site in July. Our brothers-in-arms' site touts their capabilities and provides interesting facts - many humorous - about the organization.

See what the PI Leathernecks are all about at:
<http://www.philippinemarinecorps.mil.ph/>



Marines have high aim

"The Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand." That phrase, muttered more than once throughout our illustrious history, has taken on new meaning.

For the first time ever, enlisted Marines have been accepted for a master's degree program at the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton, Ohio, and are due to land this fall for classes.

Six staff noncommissioned officers were selected for the Information Assurance Scholarship Program that will allow them to complete their advanced degrees in Information Resource Management. Upon completion they will be awarded the new Military Occupational Specialty 0689 - Information Assurance Manager.

The two-year program will require the Marines to "pay back" four years of active duty service - but they will not be required to adopt the Air Force motto.

Selected Marines are:

Master Sgt. J. R. Orlovsky, Gunnery Sgts. P. J. Cole, B. K. Hamilton, I. C. Johnson, and J. Lopez, and Staff Sgt. K. B. Scott



Turn in that green card

Thanks to a July 4 executive order, military members who are legal resident aliens are now eligible for accelerated citizenship without the once required mandatory three-year waiting period, according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The new order will reward those men and women who are born in other countries, but who now "spend each day in honorable service to their adopted land," said President Bush.

Applications for citizenship must include individual fingerprints, various forms of documentation, and INS forms available on the Internet.

For more information visit www.ins.gov call the National Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-375-5283.

Military pushes for blood donors

Congratulating military members on their blood-donation efforts, Army Col. Mike Fitzpatrick, director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office called on them Aug. 2 to continue to give blood, according to an article by the Armed Forces Press Service

The Operation Enduring Freedom area in Central Asia has 17 medical units, and the blood program must keep an inventory available in case of casualties, Fitzpatrick said. Blood only has a 42-day shelf life.

Service members who wish to donate blood can go either to one of the 21 Army, Air Force or Navy blood donor centers or a local civilian donor center.

For more information and restrictions to donating blood, a directory of donor facilities, rules, tips and news, visit the Armed Services Blood Program Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo.

Marines from the trenches

July-September 2002



Marines





Blacksheep flock to Station

by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Torii Teller Staff
MCAS IWAKUNI, Japan

The Blacksheep of Marine Attack Squadron 214 arrived here July 11 for a six-month tour under the Unit Deployment Program.

The unit, from MCAS Yuma, Ariz., has six AV-8B Harrier aircraft and approximately 100 personnel.

While deployed, the Marines of VMA-214 Detachment B will support the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit as its fixed-wing aviation combat firepower, said Capt. Jay Schnelle, operations officer.

Specific missions of that support are offensive air support, emergency defense of the amphibious task force, close air support and helicopter escort, Schnelle said.

"While in Iwakuni we will be working with Marine Aircraft Group 12 to continue to develop our pilots in all skills, focusing on offensive air support and night systems," Schnelle said. "In addition, we get to work with tenant units and conduct joint operations with the Air Force F-15s and F-16s that are permanently stationed here."

For many of the Marines who make up the squadron, this is their first deployment. About 60 percent of officers and enlisted are on their first deployment, and most said they are optimistic of their new surroundings.

"Being away from family is always hard, but it's not very often you can go around and see the world," said Cpl. Steve McNamee, flight equipment technician. "That's one of the reasons a lot of Marines joined."

World War II historical sites such as Hiroshima and Iwo Jima, are on the top of many Marines' sight-seeing lists, McNamee said.

And even though Japan offers plenty of sights and sounds for the Blacksheep to see, it also offers many new challenges for training, Schnelle said.

"The weather here is something that we definitely don't experience in Yuma," Schnelle said. "That will be the big difference."

The average high temperature in Yuma during July is about 106 degrees, according to the Weather Channel Web site. The Iwakuni average high is 85 degrees. Rainfall is another huge factor for the squadron, since the Japanese training area receives nearly 8 inches more rain on average during July than Yuma's typical half inch.

Despite the different training environment, the Marines look forward to the training, they said.

"Getting out and doing your job on the tip of the spear makes you feel that your job counts," said McNamee.







Okinawa-based service members enjoy sense of American Culture

by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel C. LeBlanc
MCB CAMP S. D. BUTLER
OKINAWA CITY, OKINAWA, Japan

Bullriders are tough people, and they prove it eight seconds at a time against an angry animal that wants to buck, stomp and gore them.

Most sane people would not jump onto the back of a 1,500-pound beast, but service members island wide are catching on to the new rodeo scene through the Okinawa Bull Riding Association.

"The adrenaline rush during my first ride was so amazing and intense - it was indescribable," said Lance Cpl. Ken Hacker, an OBRA bullrider, and native of Magnolia, Texas. "It was then that I fell in love with it, and bullriding became an instant addiction."

"This is the perfect sport for people who are looking for excitement and an adrenaline rush," said Air Force Capt. Leo Nevell, OBRA membership director and avid bullrider. "It's the ride of a lifetime."

But the ride isn't all about the thrill, it's also about style and competition, said Nevell. Bullriding judges rate the performance of both riders and bulls during each ride.

"The rider has to show good form with being square on the bull and also has to show control," said Nevell, a native of Bolingbrook, Ill. "We also look at the bull's performance and judge him on how high he bucks, jumps and spins during the eight seconds in the arena."

Though the grueling physical requirements are obvious, bullriding can be more of a thinking game than an athletic game, said Nevell.

"In bullriding, you do have to show good athletic abilities in balancing, but also be able to control your fear," Nevell said. "There is always a fear factor that every bullrider deals with. You have to be able to turn that fear around and use it as a positive force like adrenaline."

The rodeo, as it is known today, began in the late 1800s when cowboys searching for the same adrenaline rush today's cowboys seek, organized a competitive sport that pitted skilled cowboys against each other and the animals of their trade. The rodeo has since become a part of American culture.

Overseas, the rodeo brings to the service members a piece of that culture and provides them with a sense of home, Nevell said.

"It lets us have that old style of the (American) Wild West on Okinawa," Nevell said.

"Most of the bullriders and wranglers here are military members," Nevell said. "The rodeo gives them the chance to feel like they're back home. The people and atmosphere is what attracts most of the service members."

That sense of home and American culture is helping the rodeo and its members become a growing family.

"The members and friends here at the rodeo are a big family," Nevell said. "We take care of each other whether it's in or out of the ring. We always stand by each other."

For more information about upcoming OBRA events, visit www.rodeoJapan.com.



Rounds

by Lance Cpl. G. Lane Miley
MCB CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.

Down Range



U.S. Marine Corps M1A1 Tanks take a break navigating the hot July desert following a load of activity during Combined Arms Exercise 9-02. The tanks spent the day bore-sighting their main guns. The Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based Marines with A Company, 2d Tank Battalion, will return home sometime in mid-August.
Photo by Lance Cpl. G. Lane Miley

Lejeune tankers add "HEAT" to Mojave Desert



An M1A1 Abrams fires a high explosive anti-tank round at Range 500 July 29. The average July temperature of the Mojave is 108 degrees.

Photo by Lance Cpl. G. Lane Miley

"Tower, I have one round of HEAT (high explosive anti-tank) on the way," the tank commander radioed. "Send it," the master gunner replied. Not two seconds later, an intense fireball and an earthshaking BOOM explodes from the M1A1 Abrams' main-gun barrel...

Annihilating the target down range.

Marines from A Company, 2nd Tank Battalion performed a bore-sight and screening with Sabot and HEAT rounds at Range 500 July 29 before moving on to the Mobile Assault Courses in the next couple of weeks where they will employ offensive and defensive tactics, engage targets while on the move and do live-fire maneuvers as a company — all of this, during the current Combined Arms Exercise 9-02.

"It's just like zeroing your weapon on the rifle range," Staff Sgt. Herbert E. Logan said. "You have to ensure main-gun accuracy," the Madison, Ala., master gunner explained.

He said the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based tankers perform this same screening exercise prior to combat in real-world situations.

Also a master gunner, Sgt. Jason L. Villasana, said it's his job to teach Marines how to gun tactically and proficiently.

The Sanibal, Texas, Marine said training in the Mojave Desert is great for him and his Marines. He said this preps his warriors for their upcoming deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. Alpha Company is scheduled to attach with Battalion Landing Team 1/8 with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit soon after completing CAX.



Lance Cpl. Nelson Guzman, Cpl. Georlis Rodriguez, Lance Cpl. Anthony Harmon, Sgt. Jason Villasana, and Sgt. Charles Fisher will attach with the 26th MEU once CAX concludes. The tankers agree what they learn in the desert will pay dividends on foreign soil.

"The only way (the training) could be better is if people were returning fire."

- Sgt. Charles G. Fisher, tank commander

"If we deploy, it will be in an environment like this, Villasana said. "Out here there's nothing in your way. You can see the entire company moving together; something you just can't do at Lejeune." Sgt. Charles G. Fisher said CAX's theory is a good scenario.

"The training is great," the Fayetteville, Pa., tank commander barked.

The CAX veteran (this is his 13th Mojave trip) said the dusty, arid climate here gives his Marines the chance to see problems that may arise in a real situation.

"Back home, not running the tanks continuously, we just don't see (the problems)," Fisher said. "What we learn here, we'll employ out there."

First time CAX participant, Lance Cpl. Anthony W. Harmon, said this is a great learning experience. The Oakland, Maine, tank driver said you employ a different type of maneuvering on this terrain, like cutting corners. This keeps a tanker from throwing a track.

Cpl. Michael S. Kendrick said the training here in this "desolate" tract is better than the training at Lejeune because it's a life-like scenario with more brutal elements.

"The environment here is definitely more challenging," said Cpl. Brain A. Williams, a company radio operator. "When it's 130 degrees directly under the sun, and 110 degrees in the shade with hot breezes, it's definitely going to take you out of your comfort zone."

After the dust settled and all rounds had been expended, Logan said he was proud of his Marines for their performance.

"Even though it's really motivating for these Marines and they get worked up with the rush of live-firing, they performed just like we expect," Logan said. "They used safe maneuvering, almost like it's muscle memory."



"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for whoever has shed his blood with me shall be my brother. And those men afraid to go will think themselves lesser men as they hear of how we fought and died together."

- Henry V, William Shakespeare.



Sgts Drake A. Ferguson and Justin A. Brown, maintenance NCOs with Field Training Platoon, Weapons and Field Training Bn., inspect the newly-renovated Guadalcanal Grenade Range at Page Field. Photo by Lance Cpl. Virgil P. Richardson

Crucible leader inspires through motivation

by Lance Cpl. Virgil P. Richardson
MCRD Parris Island
PARRIS ISLAND, S.C.

Anyone who has served even one day as a Marine has a unique story to tell. Many of these stories focus on the one common denominator of all enlisted Marines - recruit training.

For many Marines who graduated from Parris Island since 1999, one figure stands out and reaps the same ghost-story reverence usually reserved for drill instructors.

"I rappelled off the helicopter skid and didn't break my rope on time," said Cpl. Nate Rymill, a bandsman with the Marine Band, Marine Forces Pacific, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. "I landed flat on my back and had the wind knocked out of me. After everyone figured out I was alive, Sgt. Ferguson stood over me. He asked me, 'You gonna live?' I mumbled something to the effect of 'yes, sir.' He got this sinister smile on his face and said, 'Good, cause that was some motivating trash.' He was completely psycho."

Flattered by the compliment, Sgt. Drake A. Ferguson, Crucible instructor, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, says influencing recruits is what helps him keep his edge.

"The Crucible is my day-to-day job," said Ferguson. "Recruits only get one Crucible. If my motivation makes a difference to them, it's all worth it to me."



Ferguson carries motivation in a seemingly unending supply the way some carry sarcasm and contempt. As to where that motivation comes from, Ferguson imposes a politician-like persona when touting his beloved Corps.

"I honestly and truly love the Marine Corps. It's that simple," said Ferguson with a smile.

From the moment he stepped into the recruiting office, Ferguson had embraced the idea of Corps unity and brotherhood.

"I wasn't impressed by all the pretty 'ooh-rah' stuff all over the office," he said. "What got my attention was the poster hanging behind my recruiter's desk. It had 'Band of Brothers' on it. As I read it while I sat there, I realized that's what I wanted."

Ferguson was referring to the monologue in William Shakespeare's "Henry V," in which King Henry is preparing to lead his men off to war. The Marines have unofficially adopted it as a mantra explaining the Corps' unwavering willingness to die for a stranger in Marine utilities, for no reason other than he is a member of our "band of brothers."

Supreme leadership is another characteristic Ferguson referenced when explaining his personality.

"I had phenomenal non-commissioned officers coming up as a young Marine. The ones who were gung-ho in everything they did were the ones I tried to emulate," he said.

"If I'm a psycho maniac - good! That's the kind of leader Marines need - someone who believes in what they do and loves doing it. They're the ones you'd follow to hell with a smile on your face without question."

Necessity was never a factor in Ferguson's decision to join the Corps.

"I joined the Marines because I wanted to, not because I had no place else to go. I volunteered for this," said Ferguson. "The intangibles are what drew me in. I never cared about being an army of one. I had been one of those my whole life. I didn't need the military for that. We're a collective group, and that makes us special."

Ferguson is taking a break from the rigors of recruit training to work in the Field Training Platoon maintenance shop. The time spent there will also give him time to recover from a motorcycle accident.

"It's rough going from a Crucible demigod to a maintenance NCO, but this job has its merits," Ferguson said frankly.

While he does miss the Crucible, Ferguson enjoys working with a group of top-notch Marines, and says the two sergeants he works with personify the brotherhood idea.

"I know for a fact that if I ever needed anything, Sgt. [Justin] Brown and Sgt. [Shaun] Wahl would be right there to get my back," he said. "They know what it means to take care of their people."

Behind the imposing rappel tower hangs a hand painted sign, in homage of the previously mentioned Crucible demigod:

"RESERVED FOR ANIMAL MOTHER."

"'Animal Mother' was given to me at the School of Infantry by my squad leader," said Ferguson. "We were firing the old M-60 machine gun and we had a load of ammo left after the exercise. I was the guide, and they let me dispose of the spare rounds. The method with which I did that earned me a nickname I have had ever since."

The comparison to 'Animal Mother' from the Vietnam War movie "Full Metal Jacket" is an

appropriate one. In Stanley Kubrick's movie - now a Marine staple - a seemingly rabid grunt operating under that moniker lives bigger than life and cares more about mission accomplishment than his personal safety. For Ferguson, this is a typical way of life.

"Can't is not in our vocabulary. Failure is not an option. As Marines, we improvise, adapt and overcome. That's what makes us better," Ferguson boasted.

As far as what the future holds for the Marines, Ferguson hopes the focus of the Corps will once again be on the basics that we were grounded on.

"I think a lot of people have forgotten what we were put here to do. We are trained killers. Regardless of whether you are a bread baker or candlestick maker, if you wear our uniform, you can get 'the call' at any time and be on your way to war," said Ferguson. "If that call comes, you had better be ready to go."

After two tours in the Marines, Ferguson is ready to move on. After his discharge later this year, he'll continue his faithful service to our country as a federal agent, and the Marine in him will never go away.

"It's been a fun eight years," he said. "I've gained so much. I only hope I influenced as many people as influenced me."

His love for the brotherhood he found in the Marines is what he'll miss the most, he said.

"The band of brothers is unique to the Marine Corps, and it can never be taken away," he said.



Gunnery Sgt. William McClelland receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon B. England during the Pentagon's Heroes Award Ceremony.

Photo by Sgt. Katesha Niman



The Pentagon as it looked immediately after terrorist had crashed the kidnapped aircraft into the side of the building. Building had not yet collapsed, giving Marines and others a chance to rescue victims.

Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersol

Marines recount experience, life since September 11th

by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
Editor, Marines magazine
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

Most people remember exactly what they were doing the morning of Sept. 11 when terrorists crashed airliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

Since then, stories have been written, pictures taken, and battles fought, yet nothing can bring back the loved ones killed by the terrorists.

The events of that day affected everyone.

Media outlets, politicians and celebrities called those who took part in the aftermath of the attacks "heroes." Yet when asked, none of the people felt what they did was heroic. "Marines" asked some of those involved in the rescue efforts on and after Sept. 11 how that day changed their lives.

It was complete chaos, said Gunnery Sgt. William McClelland, a Conroe, Texas native who participated in the recovery efforts.

"We took it upon ourselves to go down to the Pentagon," said McClelland, Headquarters Marine Corps, Command, Control, Communications and Computers. "And we volunteered to help recover bodies."



Sgt. Michael Farrington receives Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from the Honorable Gordon B. England, Secretary of the Navy, during a ceremony honoring heroes of the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson



One of the largest piece of the aircraft that crashed into the Pentagon lies at the crash site as rescue efforts are underway.

Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersol

Retired Gunnery Sgt. Vincent Martinez, Visual Information Specialist, HQMC, hurried out of the Navy Annex to see what had happened, and immediately ran to the Pentagon. He assisted members of the local fire department by recovering injured personnel and bodies from the impact site.

"Those were my fellow brothers and sisters in arms," said Martinez, a Chicago native. "I had to go and help, that's what the Corps all about."

Staff Sgt. Michael Farrington, of Adrian, Mich., HQMC, Programs and Resources, set aside his personal problems so he could focus on helping those in need.

"The week before Sept. 11, I found out that I had been passed over for staff sergeant," explains Farrington. "So I was pretty down in the dumps about it, but I considered that to be a small thing compared to what was happening."

Subsequently, McClelland and Farrington were among 11 Marines, and about a hundred other service members and civilians, recognized by the Secretary of the Navy in December 2001 for their heroism.





Maj. Gen. Kevin Kuklok, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations, pins the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on Staff Sgt. Robert Wallace during an award presentation held in conjunction with a Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Lt. Col. Giles Kyser and Maj. Matthew Coon were also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Photo by Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien

Staff Sgt. Robert Wallace, administration chief for Plans, Policies and Operations, HQMC, received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his contribution to the volunteer efforts after the terrorist attacks.

Wallace, a Toledo, Ohio native, was part of a search and rescue team Sept. 11. He and other members of the team covered their faces with wet T-shirts and braved fire and smoke on their way to the top floor to help injured civilians and service members to safety.

"I just did what came natural," said Wallace. "It was completely reactionary."

Though these Marines embody esprit de corps in different ways, they all continue to move ahead as they always have, they said.

"Nothing has changed for me or my family," said McClelland. "I don't intend (to imprison) myself or my family. That's why I'm in the Marine Corps - to help defend the country, so no one has to feel imprisoned."

Farrington has the same concern for his family, but expressed it differently.

"I have always been a family-oriented person, but the attacks have given me a greater respect for family," he said. "Because that could have



A section of the Pentagon collapses moments after terrorist had crashed aircraft into its side. Many injured and dead are still trapped inside as rescue efforts continues after collapse.

Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersol

very easily been anyone of us. I have a newfound appreciation for my family and life itself."

The events surrounding Sept. 11 also changed the focus of Farrington's career, he said.

"I was really upset about not picking up staff sergeant, but I did what was necessary and waited for the board to decide," he said. "The system worked and I got my promotion back-dated. I'm coming up on ten years time in service and I'm going to stay in, so I guess a lot has changed for me in a year."

Wallace proclaims that his life hasn't changed much.

"I guess my personality makes me the way I am - I don't really worry about things," he said. "Of course I'm upset about what happened, but I don't dwell on it - I do what's necessary to help and I move on."

Like the other Marines involved in the Sept. 11 rescue and recovery efforts, McClelland said he is no hero.

"The real heroes are the families; the mothers and children of the victims," said McClelland.

Marines



July-September 2002

Marines loud and clear

July-September 2002



Marines

**“We will not [forget]. We will continue to remember them,”
Rumsfeld commented, “and we will continue to tell their stories
again and again so that our nation never forgets.”**

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld at a ceremony honoring those killed in
the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

**“These men and women truly made September 11 a day when ‘Uncommon
Valor was a Common Virtue,’”**

Secretary of the Navy Gordon B. England, as he opened a Pentagon
Ceremony honoring Marines, Sailors and Department of Defense
personnel for the courage and compassion they displayed when the
Pentagon became a combat zone.

**“My main objective was to keep my Marines safe. However, we had to help.
We couldn’t stand by while thousands of people ran by our office in terror.”**

Staff Sgt. Angel Montanez, Bronx native, and Noncommissioned
Officer-in-Charge of Recruiting Substation Manhattan.

**“I’ve been around Marines for 19 years, and Marines are the most patriotic
individuals you’ve ever come across,” said Leach. “It’s the training they
received, the values instilled in them from that training, the patriotism, and
the need to answer their country’s call.”**

Gunnery Sgt. John M. Leach, a prior service recruiter here in
Garden City, discussing the increase in prior Marines coming back
on active duty following Sept. 11.

**“Life is different now and our sense of comfort, as a nation, will never be
the same again. I appreciate my blessings! God, Family and Corps have an
even greater priority in my life since September 11, 2001.”**

Maj. Ricco Player, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense,
Military Assistant

"Marines are expeditionary and innovative by nature ... our achievements since September 11, 2001, are testament to our history of innovation."

Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps

"I find it interesting that he's not from the U.S. I bet Dan Rather'd let me do it on his special."

Country music artist Toby Keith, after "World News Tonight" host Peter Jennings vetoed Keith's chart-topping song, "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)," from the line-up of an ABC 4th of July TV special because of the song's controversial lyrics.

"Deep down there is an American spirit in all of us that says, "You're not going to mess with us.""

Col. Dave Darrah, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan commanding officer



SemperToons

created by Staff Sgt. C. F. Wolf

SEMPERTOONS creator, Staff Sgt. C.F. Wolf, is looking for new Marine Corps stories/anecdotes to put to art. Marines are invited to send their ideas to mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil. Only tasteful anecdotes will be considered.



Marines from the trenches

July-September 2002



Marines



NY Marine reservists make first training deployment to Okinawa

by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel C. LeBlanc
MCB CAMP S. D. BUTLER
MCAS FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan



Staff Sgt. Jason Magurno, calibration technician, MALS-49, MAG-49, 4th MAW, who is a native of Mineola, N.Y., conducts calibration on equipment at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathaniel C. LeBlanc

Aviation Marine reservists from Stewart, N.Y. arrived here June 8 for their annual two-week training.

The overseas trip is a first for Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron-49, Marine Aircraft Group-49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. The deployment ended June 22.

While here, the New Yorkers teamed with Marines from MALS-36, MAG-36, 1st MAW to sharpen their skills in their military occupations.

Working overseas with MALS-36 is a unique opportunity for the reservists, said Lt. Col. Kevin McCutcheons, commanding officer, MALS-36, a native of Wausau, Wis. "It allowed them to gain new experiences on the job and also interact with the Okinawan culture."

The new experience opened the MALS-49 Marines' eyes to the high operational tempo of working overseas, said Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Perez, hazardous materiel staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, MALS-49.

"The Marines here in MALS-36 are very busy," Perez said. "It's a very high-tempo unit, and we're lucky to train with such a unit."

The deployment also gave the reservists a rare insight to working with active duty Marines.

"This deployment is my first time being able to see how active duty Marines work," said Cpl. Matthew Samuel, aviation supply, MALS-49. "Active Marines put a lot of hard work and sacrifice in what they do, and we feed off of that."

Working side by side, the active and reserve Marines learned new job traits.

"They're like our mentors," said Samuel, who works as a police officer in New York when he is not training with the Marines in his unit. "We learn our jobs and responsibilities from them."

Being a police officer and Marine means strong responsibilities, said Perez, a 12-year veteran of the New York Police Department.

"It's a leadership role with being both a Marine reservist and a police officer," Perez said. "I teach my young Marines and the kids in my community youth program the same traits and principles."

As reservists apply their Marine Corps traits and principles in everyday life, they are ready at a moments notice to be activated.

Soon after the terrorist's attacks in New York, the reservists were called to duty as police officers, Samuel said. The Marines manned the identification checkpoints and traffic while other law enforcement officials reacted to the World Trade Center attack.

"You never know when you'll be activated and have to leave," Perez said. "During the events of September 11, it was tough knowing (I was) needed not only as a police officer, but as Marine."



As part of the Memorial Day safety stand-down at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, a UH-1N Huey lands on the parade deck during a simulated emergency medical airlift evacuation, May 24.
Photo by Sgt. Tisha L. Carter

CMC urges revisions to safety campaign

Corps' leaders tasked with reducing losses through better Operational Risk Management

by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
Editor, Marines magazine
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

In the recently released Marine Corps Safety Campaign 2002, the Commandant lauds efforts made last year to reduce the number of safety mishaps throughout the Corps, but reminds Marines that the battle for safety is not over.

Though serious aviation mishaps and privately owned vehicle fatalities dropped, "We were not successful in reducing our on-duty accident rates," said Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones, in the campaign plan's introduction.

The new edition includes revisions to previous plans designed to increase the awareness of safety issues, and to continue fostering cultural changes in the way safety is incorporated into our daily lives.



The Marine Corps loses the equivalent of a Marine Expeditionary Unit in fatalities and injuries annually in on- and off-duty mishaps, according to this year's campaign plan. These casualties diminish our readiness, our cohesion, and our camaraderie, said Gen. Jones in a 2000 letter to the Corps' leaders.

"We must reduce these losses," he said. "Our Corps needs a cultural change and this change must be profound. We will effect this change through leadership."

As a result, the Executive Safety Board was established in 2000 to lead the cultural change. This year the Commandant added the commanding general of the Training and Education Command and the Inspector General of the Marine Corps as members.

Other changes implemented this year include the focus on structure and staffing.

While Marine Forces, installations, and flying units have billets for primary duty safety Marines in their tables of organization, many other units do not.

"Measures necessary to augment base and station safety staffs are currently in progress," said Capt. Len Martin, Aviation Safety Officer, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps will hire civilian safety specialists to create a core safety service that will be the benchmark for Marine Corps ground safety programs," said Martin.

Additionally, culture workshops, which include individual discussions, facilitated workshops, and commanding officers' debriefs, have been added to the campaign. These workshops provide commanders with a snapshot of a unit's culture.

Stricter requirements for training have also been implemented. Marines assigned to safety billets are required to undergo training within 90 days of assignment, and remain in the job for at least a year. Training includes a 10-day course in mishap prevention, safety and occupational health programs, a five-day course in investigating and reporting mishaps, and any other approved Marine

Forces Ground Safety Mobile Training Team course.

Aviation safety officers must attend a six-week aviation safety officer course, which certifies them as operational risk management instructors. Marine Expeditionary Unit commanders and aviation commanders must attend a six-day aviation safety commander course, which teaches the responsibilities of being a senior member of a mishap investigation board, the proper way to endorse hazard reports and mishap investigations, the elements of an effective safety program, and certifies participants as ORM instructors.



Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, presents Staff Sgt. Scott Worth with the Superior Achievement in Safety Award for his performance as Safety Manager for Marine Security Forces Battalion.

Photo by Sgt. Marshall Paull

The new campaign plan also added a section on suicide. This section outlines future endeavors to implement suicide prevention training at all formal leadership schools and installation visits to educate commands on suicide prevention. A CD-ROM to supplement the material in the suicide prevention kit mailed out to all units last year is also in the works, according to the plan.

As an added incentive, new safety awards will be presented in two categories - Commandant of the Marine Corps awards, and awards presented by commands to units and individuals.

Recognition from the commandant includes Marine Corps Center of Safety Excellence award; Marine Corps Superior Achievement in Safety (military and civilian) award; Marine Corps Achievement in Safety award; and Marine Corps Merit Award in Safety.

Marine Forces Atlantic, Pacific and Reserve plan to establish awards programs to recognize the outstanding safety performance of subordinate units and military personnel.

The commandant intends to have, at a minimum, all commanders ask two questions during any brief: "What are the risks of this event or course of action?"

and "What have we done to reduce those risks to an acceptable level?"

"All Marines should ask themselves the same questions when beginning any off-duty activity," said Gen. Jones.

"I am committed to halting the accidental deaths and injuries in the Marine Corps," added Gen. Jones. "To that end, commanders must embrace the idea that safety is an element of force protection. By doing so, we will save the lives of our Marines and increase the combat readiness of the Corps ... both are worthy goals."



Windtalkers makes landing at theaters

by Staff Sgt. Chad E. McMeen
MCAS Miramar, Calif.

John Woo has taken one of the more obscure and almost forgotten stories of World War II and brought it to life on the big screen in "Windtalkers."

In the story, Marines, Joe Enders (Nicholas Cage) and Ox Anderson (Christian Slater), are assigned to protect code talkers, Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach) and Charlie Whitehorse (Roger Willie). Their orders are to keep these men safe, but if a code talker should fall into enemy hands, they're to "protect the code at all costs."

As the men become reluctant friends and the bonds of war are forged, each man is ultimately faced with a terrible decision: if they can't protect their fellow Marines, how far will they go to protect the code?

You will see action scenes similar to those in "Saving Private Ryan" and "Pearl Harbor," but you will also feel the drama shown in Woo's earlier movie "Face Off" as you sit on the edge of your chair through the intense 134 minutes.

This movie has it all, and it takes you on a rollercoaster ride of emotion and action and amazingly enough it even has several moments of comedy.

The movie takes place during the invasion of Saipan and is historically correct down to the smallest detail. Woo's intent was to recreate the brutality of Saipan on film and I think he accomplished just that.

I think it ("Windtalkers") paints an accurate portrait of what it must have been like," Nicolas Cage explained during an on-camera interview. "I can only imagine what it was like, having been on the field pretending to be one of these guys, and of course it had to be a billion times worse."

Prior to filming, a group of actors and key extras were sent through a two-week bootcamp run by Marines of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Marines, both active and retired, assisted on this project and made sure the actors understood how Marines work as a team to accomplish the mission.

"It will be interesting to see how today's Marines react to the film, but I can assure them that virtually every element from the haircuts to weapons presentation is accurate for that time period," explained Capt. Matthew Morgan, DoD project officer for "Windtalkers." "We made sure that vocabulary, uniforms, deuce gear and tactics were researched thoroughly, and that filming adhered as closely as possible to those facts."

"I thought I'll just show up for the movie - no big deal and I'll put on the clothes, but there's so much information - These Marines are pretty amazing," Christian Slater said upon completion of the training.

As a viewer, one should remember that "Windtalkers" is a story of men at war, and not a documentary.

The story premise involves code talkers being assigned a "Marine bodyguard," a theory revisited several times throughout the movie.



While this makes for a great Hollywood story, it has not been proven that Marines were ordered to kill their Navajo counterpart before allowing the Japanese to figure out the code. More accurately, the communications specialists operated radios in two-man teams with the second Marine cranking the hand generator to power the radios.

Through the years the concept of the “bodyguard” has grown into a military urban legend of sorts.

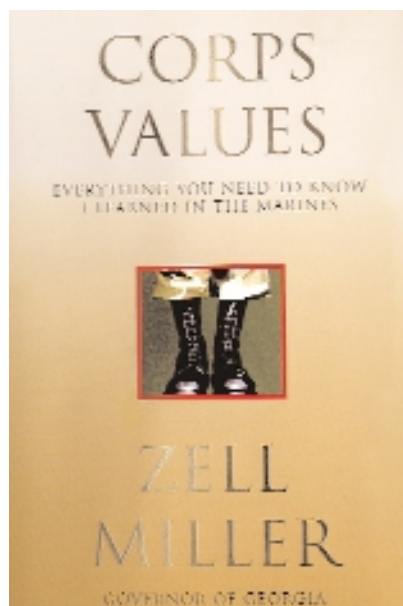
It may seem a little sensationalized because of the hundreds of rounds whizzing by Cage without him getting hit, but who’s to say it couldn’t - or more importantly didn’t - happen. Have you ever read through some of the Medal of Honor citations that weren’t awarded posthumously?

Anyone who has sat down with his or her grandparents and heard the stories or flipped through some WWII pictures might get a lump in their throat at times throughout this epic, but I think it’s an important chapter of our history being told in a way that only John Woo can recreate on film.

This movie is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for “pervasive graphic war violence, and for language”. It opened in theaters June 14.

Nicolas Cage (left) as Joe Enders and Adam Beach as Ben Yahzee star in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures’ epic drama *Windtalkers*.
Photo by Stephen Vaughan





“Corps Values”

Everything You Need to Know I Learned in the Marines

by former Georgia Governor Zell Miller
Copyright: 1996
Longstreet Press
by Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway

The merits of being a Marine are highlighted and underscored by former Georgia Governor, now Senator Zell Miller in “Corps Values: Everything You Need to Know I Learned in the Marines.”

Miller, who joined the Marine Corps in 1953 from the small mountain town of Elijay, Ga., credits the discipline and values instilled in him by his mother and his drill instructors as the reasons for his successes in life.

This 108-page book is rife with supporting his belief in these values.

Miller writes with a sense of humor that any Marine - even the “Hollywood” type - would appreciate, about the horrors of the sand flea and how that tiny insect, together with “at least a million” of his fellow blood-suckers, worked hand in hand with his drill instructors to emphasize discipline, one of the 12 virtues upon which he places high value.

Shifting gears, he writes in graphic, heart-rending detail about Marine courage - the kind displayed by his hero, Master Sgt. George Burlage.

Burlage survived Japanese torture in a World War II prison camp because of his courage, Miller writes. Courage allowed Burlage to survive being captive in the hold of a Japanese transport ship where he and his fellow Marines were “stacked like cordwood” and so thirsty that the weaker of the 20 to 50 men who died each day would try to “bite open the throats of others for a drink of blood.”

Miller praises the Corps’ ability and willingness to teach young men and women that same value today, and says he “thanks God nightly that the Marine Corps is one agency of society that continues to inspire (courage) in present and coming generations.”

The growing absence of values in the mainstream of our society is a topic Miller addresses in his book. He offers the Marine Corps value system as a moral compass, or roadmap, that can safely guide Americans back toward a better time in our history.

“The basic lessons Marines teach their recruits are important ones,” he writes. “I believe that more of our citizens must learn these lessons if a democratic society in our republican form of government is to survive and thrive.”

Those of us who marched across the parade grounds of Parris Island or San Diego on graduation day know what Miller talks about in this book. We understand the pride and accomplishment of being one of “The Few, The Proud.” We have been indelibly marked by these values.



The packs full of skills and the sea bags full of knowledge each of us carries when we take that "full-30 inch step" toward our futures are the intangibles Miller writes about in "Corps Values." It is these values that make us who we are and these values that helped make Miller successful, he writes.

"I am certain ... that I would not be in the position to write this book today had I not sought to 'make a man of myself' by joining the Marine Corps," he says in the book's prologue.

The values gained by Miller as a Marine recruit are broken down into individual chapters in which he explains their impact on his life.

The values Miller extols are:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Neatness | 7. Shame |
| 2. Punctuality | 8. Responsibility |
| 3. Brotherhood | 9. Achievement |
| 4. Persistence | 10. Courage |
| 5. Pride | 11. Discipline |
| 6. Respect | 12. Loyalty |

I think this is a book everyone should read - especially Marines. It refreshes the esprit de corps so essential for our survival. Many of the benefits may be well known to those who have earned the title "Marine," but Miller manages to bring to light some interesting points in each of the chapters of his book and does it in a short, easy-to-read manner that is both enjoyable and insightful.

"I submit (these values are) the only basis upon which diversity can coexist with commonality and all people can pursue individual goals for themselves while contributing to the general well-being and advancement of society as a whole," he writes.

"Those who think otherwise need to go through 12 weeks of boot camp and see how they feel afterward."

Marine Corps Association

Top Sellers

August 12, 2002

Warning Of War

By James Brady

Storm Landings

By Joseph Alexander

Edson's Raiders

By Joseph Alexander

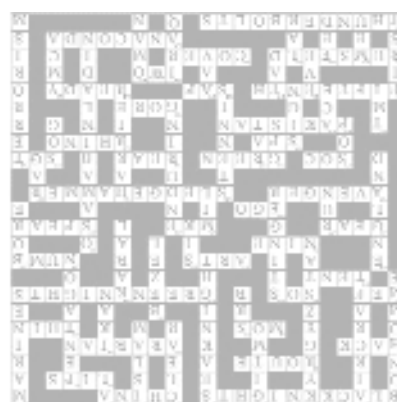
The Battle History of
the U.S. Marines

By Joseph Alexander

Utmost Savagery

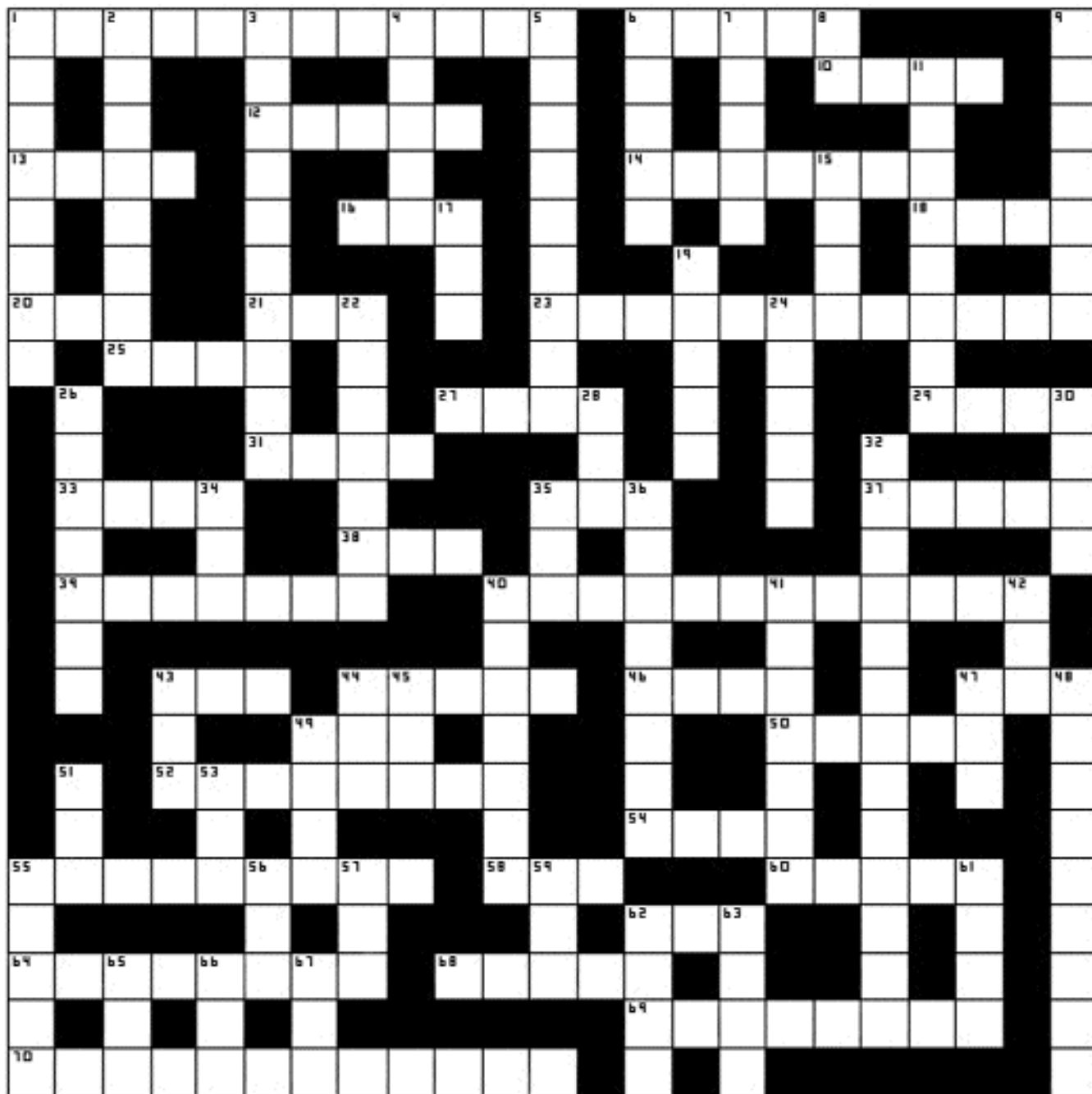
By Joseph Alexander

www.mca-marines.org





War on Terrorism



Answer on page 37



Across

- 1 Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 (2 words)
- 6 Afghanistan neighbor
- 10 Loose ones sink ships
- 12 _____ - step march
- 13 Restriction to quarters for Naval officers
- 14 North _____ Sea
- 16 USMC job
- 18 Not fat
- 20 Boss over MEB and MEU
- 21 Distress Signal or Navy toast over gravy
- 23 Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (2 words)
- 25 Marine's home in the field
- 27 Martial _____ program
- 29 Lack of sensation
- 31 MCAGCC Twenty _____ Palms
- 33 Marine's training stuff
- 35 USMC field chow
- 37 Tip of the _____
- 38 Self-esteem, Marines have plenty of this
- 39 Stinger launch pedestal
- 40 A 26th MEU supported Task Force
- 43 MEU certification
- 44 _____ - side corpsmen
- 46 Where the gear is
- 47 One vertebra in the backbone of USMC leadership

- 49 Health resort
- 50 Camp seized by 15th MEU in late November 2001
- 52 Afghanistan neighbor
- 54 Former vice-president
- 55 First MEU on ground in Afghanistan
- 58 Weaken
- 60 Amphibious _____ Group
- 62 USS _____ Jima
- 64 Secretary of Defense
- 68 Marine hat
- 69 13th MEU participated in this OEF operation
- 70 Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251

Down

- 1 USS _____ Richard
- 2 Hornets, Harriers and Hercules
- 3 Coalition base in former Soviet Union country
- 4 Taliban detainees' home (slang)
- 5 CH46E
- 6 Secure a room
- 7 Muslim religious faith
- 8 _____ - Qaida
- 9 America's '911 force'
- 11 Site of one of the Sept. 11 attacks
- 15 Afghanistan neighbor
- 17 Marine's pers. Folder
- 19 Compass ring
- 22 Missile with Forward-Looking Infrared sight

- 24 Afghanistan capital
- 26 Secretary of the Navy
- 28 Respectful address to an officer
- 30 Interior diameter of a gun barrel
- 32 Wanted dead or alive (3 words)
- 34 What most Marine do three times a week
- 35 www.usmc._____
- 36 Operation _____ Freedom
- 40 USS John C. _____
- 41 AV-8B
- 42 Cleaning cloth
- 43 Standard Operating Procedure
- 44 Global Positioning System
- 45 A pest you don't want to find in your sleeping bag
- 47 Often an E-5 on guard duty
- 48 Will not be tolerated
- 49 Some do this twice on a negative fitness report
- 51 Techniques of Military Instruction
- 53 Aviation portion of a MAGTF
- 55 _____ to fight
- 56 Night before a holiday
- 57 Temporary additional duty
- 59 Current water/land troop carrier
- 61 Int'l org. for males
- 62 Saddam's home
- 63 Middle-Eastern country
- 65 Smallest MAGTF organized unit
- 67 Light armored recon bn.



Single Marines storm Disney World

Boredom and monotony fall prey to the onslaught of fun and relaxation in the Florida sunshine.

by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson
Editor, Marines magazine
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington

"I had so much fun. I've never been to Disney World before,"

- New York City native, Sgt. Christina Robinson, computer programmer for Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va.

The average person who enlists in the Marine Corps is between the ages of 18-21, has never been married, and resides in barracks-type housing after the completion of recruit and military occupational specialty training.

These single Marines make up more than 50 percent of the Marine Corps' fighting force, yet it seems when they join the Marine Corps, they forget how to have fun, or where to go to enjoy themselves.

The Single Marine Program has been enhanced since 1995 to better reach single Marines who often find themselves bored in the barracks with nothing to do, and nowhere to go.

The SMP coordinates group trips to places like paintball parks, amusement parks, and whitewater rafting areas. They also host on-base events like karaoke and DJ nights at the Enlisted Clubs.

Recently, Marines from several bases along the East Coast came together for a trip to Neverland - Disney World in Orlando, Fla., an SMP first, according to Justin Hendrickson, the SMP Coordinator for Henderson Hall.

From April 18 - 21, single Marines from Henderson Hall, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., MCAS Beaufort, S.C. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga., enjoyed the fun and sun at Florida theme parks.

Hendrickson, the idea-man behind the Florida escape, was pleased with the outcome of the trip.

"Other than the bus ride, the trip was a huge success," said Hendrickson. "Everybody enjoyed the houses, pools and kitchens."

The bus ride to Disney World was 16-hours long.

More than 300 Marines occupied about 20 five-bedroom resort houses on two blocks in the nearby city of Kissimmee.

Once settled in their resort homes, the Marines changed into bathing suits and indulged in the refreshing waters of the screened-in pools at the houses. They discussed their plans for the next three days.

The first stop for one group was Disney World, which included a full day of walking, riding, shopping for souvenirs and drinking plenty of water.

"I had so much fun. I've never been to Disney World before," said New York City native, Sgt. Christina Robinson, computer programmer for Marine



Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Va. "I especially enjoyed the Tower of Terror, the Rocking Roller coaster, and I got to hold the Scorpion King sword at Universal Studios.

"This is my first trip ever with the Single Marine Program and if I was staying in, I would definitely take more trips like this," added Robinson.

"I've had fun as well," echoed Sgt. Branka Dotson, administrative clerk for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military personnel division. "It was a long trip, but it was worth it. It's nice to meet different Marines from other bases."

Dotson, a Ludwigshafen, Germany native, has previous experience with the SMP.

"When I was stationed in San Diego, we had bowling alley parties, and I especially remember and enjoyed the camping trip to the Grand Canyon," said Dotson.

It's great the program gets single Marines away from base for fun activities, Dotson said.

"A lot of the Marine Corps is focused on the families, and the single Marines seem to be left out," she said. "They are the ones that typically wind up working long hours, so it's awesome what the Single Marine Program offers, and that individual commands allow their Marines some time off."

Several other Marines chimed in on the fun.

"We had a blast!" said Cpl. Benjamin Cameron, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical noncommissioned officer at The Basic School in Quantico, and PFC Shannon Baxter, disbursing clerk for Headquarters Company, also in Quantico.

Cpl. Stacy Dobbins, an armorer with Marine Avionics Logistics Squadron 14, "merrily" rides a merry-go-round around the Seuss Landing of Universal Studios. Photo by Cpl. Bradly Shaver





Lance Cpl. Herb Goodwin, an operations clerk with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Training Squadron 253, looks at a map for all the different attractions available.
Photo by Cpl. Bradly Shaver

"I will definitely do more trips like this," said Cameron, a Reno, Nev. native. "I'm looking forward to that whitewater rafting trip we have coming up next."

"I enjoyed meeting so many new people," added Baxter, a Macon, Ga. native. "This was my first trip and I will definitely continue to do more."

Some Marines also spent a day at Universal Studios, soaking up seemingly more excitement than humanly possible.

"I loved Universal Studios," said Lance Cpl. Nafesa McKoy, administrative supply clerk, Headquarters Battalion, Henderson Hall, and SMP president for Henderson Hall. "It was a very enlightening experience."

Sgt. Jose Torres, vice-president of the Quantico SMP, said he enjoyed the trip, but he also likes how the single Marines get involved in the community as well.

"Sure I had fun, but that's not all we do," explained the Cleveland, Ohio native. "We have ongoing volunteer efforts at the Ronald McDonald House, the Northern Virginia Fairfax Hospital and with the Special Olympics of Prince William County."

"SMP is beneficial in a lot of ways," he said. "On one side it allows the single Marine to give back to the community, and on the other side it allows the Marine to enjoy being a Marine."

Other events during the three-day stay in Orlando included barbecues, poolside parties, movies and a trip to the 'Wet and Wild' water park.

The organizers enjoyed the trip as well.

Mimi Dator, the Information, Tickets and Tours/ Semper Fit representative from Henderson Hall enjoyed how everyone got along so well.

"I had fun because we were doing everything together," said Dator. "Even though we all came from different bases, everyone still gets along."

"This was a vacation away from home, away from the Marine Corps, away from everything," Hendrickson said. "It was a chance for a lot of them to go see something they've never seen before."

"A lot of them probably would have never thought to take the time to do something like this during their time in the Marine Corps," he said.

The Single Marine Program throughout the Marine Corps is working to improve the quality of life for single Marines, and this is just the beginning of better things for Marines of the future, said Hendrickson.

"Ideally what we want to try to do is build a competitive event where single Marines everywhere face off against the best," said Hendrickson. "Kind of like a SMP Olympics. And of course we'd love to do more trips like this, eventually with the East and West Coasts coming together."

Hendrickson, a former Marine himself, said he also hopes SMP can help first-term Marines make positive decisions before they separate from the Marine Corps, if that's what they want to do.

"Maybe some of the single Marines will re-enlist because of the positive and fun things they are able to do as a Marine," he explained. "And if they do decide to get out, they'll be able to say they got a lot out of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps isn't all work and no play."

With every positive aspect of any program, challenges must be faced. For SMP, the biggest challenge is awareness, Hendrickson said.

"The basic complaint I hear is that no one knows about it," said Hendrickson. "The biggest thing [Marines] have is their first four years, and this can be major deciding factor for most Marines."

Being active in the Single Marine Program allows Marines to go places and do things with other Marines - things that are fun, he said. But, it's hard for them to go to events like these if they don't know about it.

"It gave me the opportunity to have a really good time and meet new Marines, and old Marines that I haven't seen in a long time," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Gordon, infantryman and vice president for Henderson Hall SMP. "I hope this can improve the future of single Marines at Henderson Hall."

For more information about what the Single Marine Program has to offer, visit their Web Site at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/smp/>, and see what your base is doing.

"A lot of the Marine Corps is focused on the families, and the single Marines seem to be left out,"

"They are the ones that typically wind up working long hours, so it's awesome what the Single Marine Program offers, and that individual commands allow their Marines some time off."

- Ludwigshafen, Germany native Sgt. Branka Dotson, administrative clerk for the Office of the Secretary of Defense





Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, speaks with 1st Lt. Janos J. Cook, platoon commander for Lima Company 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-terrorism) after an awards ceremony held on Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Photo by Cpl. Matthew B. Roberson

4th MEB (AT) receives State Department Award

Marines and Sailors of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) received the Department of State Group Superior Honor Award July 26 for their hard work and dedication during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Service members assigned to L Company, 4th MEB (AT) gathered at the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force's headquarters building to receive the award for their efforts while stationed at the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The award recognized "Lima" Company for its extraordinary service while stationed at the embassy from December 2001 through March 2002. During this time, the anti-terrorism warriors provided security, assisted in humanitarian missions, represented the embassy in an international rugby tournament, and contributed greatly to the ability of the United States in reopening the embassy.

Ambassador Ryan Crocker presented the award. Crocker, the deputy assistant secretary for near eastern affairs and the acting ambassador for Afghanistan during the time L Company was there, said it was an honor to present the award in front of the Marines' families after witnessing first-hand their dedication and hard work ethic.

"The foreign services and the Marine Corps have long been linked, and they made history in Afghanistan," Crocker told the Jacksonville Daily News during an interview. "This award is rarely given in the Foreign Service and only a few select Marines have earned it in the past. As far as I am aware, this award has never been presented to a regular military unit."

Crocker thanked the Marines on a more personal level after the ceremony as they gathered around in a semi-circle, and recollected events from his time at the embassy. He also made time to speak with some of the service members' wives and joke with platoon commanders.

Another force of brigade Marines has since assumed the embassy security mission there.

The 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) has had Marines deployed around the world continuously since its activation on 29 October, 2001. The brigade epitomizes its battle cry of "Vigilance with an Attitude," and continues to develop as the Marine Corps' premiere anti-terrorism force.



Lt. Gen. William L. Nyland



Gen. Michael J. Williams

“Spider” slated as next ACMC

The Marine Corps’ deputy commandant for aviation, Lt. Gen. William L. “Spider” Nyland, is nominated for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, according to an announcement July 15 by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Lt. Gen. Nyland will replace current ACMC Gen. Michael J. Williams, who is scheduled to retire November 1 after more than 35 years as a Marine.



Gen. James L. Jones

‘Reporting for orders...’

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James L. Jones was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, Europe July 19 by NATO.

Gen. Jones’ nomination to the post by President Bush was approved by the alliance and he is slated to succeed Air Force Gen. Joseph W. Ralston as SACEUR at a yet-to-be-determined date.

Gen. Jones is also nominated for assignment as commander, U.S. European Command.

The U.S. Senate must confirm both nominations.



Marines corps shots



Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni firefighter carries an axe during training aboard the station. Firefighters often work in dark, hot and smoky environments such as this.
Photo by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson

Marines and Sailors of the 22nd MEU (SOC) receive some of the 12,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies donated to U.S. service members by actor Bruce Willis and his family. The Marines were in the East African nation of Djibouti conducting a humanitarian assistance mission.
Photo by 1st. Lt. Michael W. Armistead



Colonel John DeWitt, commanding officer, Marine Aircraft Group 12, is showered with champagne by his wife, Barbara after completing his final scheduled flight as a fighter pilot. DeWitt leaves the Corps after 35 years of military service, including two tours in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.
Photo by Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson



Pfc. Lazaro Vega of Dade, Fla., crawls through one of Range 410A's trenches. He was one of about 20 Marines that threw live fragmentation grenades on the range.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Huffine



Posing with professional wrestling star "Big Show," the Marines from RS Jacksonville, Fla., spent their 4th of July weekend "on the street" at Daytona's International Speedway and the Valusia Mall. Hundreds of soon-to-be Marines gathered around the Marine Corps Humvee and the Marine Team Bush Series #25 car. As much as the Big Show wanted to join, he admitted, "the fighting I do is fake, it's the Marines that do the real fighting."

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Edwards

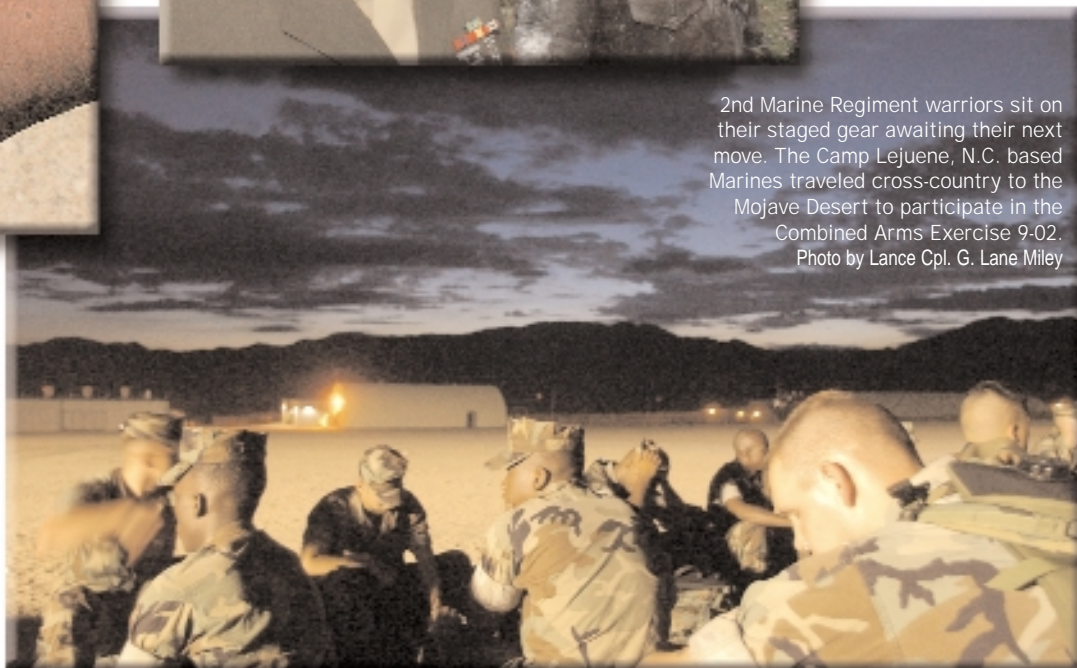


Lance Cpl. Paul R. Parker III shows a picture he keeps in his wallet of himself as a private first class and his father, now Master Gunnery Sgt. Paul R. Parker Jr., when he was a master sergeant. Photo by Lance Cpl. G. Lane Miley



Sgt. Oscar M. Gonzales, born in Peru. He lives and works every day to produce the best Marines he can. He became a United States citizen, and proud to have been given the opportunity to give back to the country and service that has given him the chance. Photo by Cpl. Shawn M. Toussaint

2nd Marine Regiment warriors sit on their staged gear awaiting their next move. The Camp Lejeune, N.C. based Marines traveled cross-country to the Mojave Desert to participate in the Combined Arms Exercise 9-02. Photo by Lance Cpl. G. Lane Miley



Marines waded through smoke during a live fire and maneuver exercise at Ban Chan Khrem, Thailand. The exercise, conducted by BLT, 3/5, 31st MEU (SOC), and Thai Marines was part of Exercise Cobra Gold '02. Photo by Sgt. Stephen D'Alessio



Marines incoming

July-September 2002



Marines



In the next issue of
Marines

October - December 2002

ECO Challenge

Marines and other service members tackle the elements of the Alaskan tundra during the Armed Forces Eco-Challenge. The 10-day event pits man (and woman) against nature as the contestants push through the brush and over the mountainous terrain. Read more about it in the next issue of "Marines" The Official Magazine of the Marine Corps.

The Marine behind SemperToons

Staff Sgt. Charles F. Wolf has created smiles and laughs for Marines since 1998. By using his own experiences in the Marine Corps, and those of Marines he talks to, he artistically amuses the "gungiest" of Marines. Learn about the Marine behind SemperToons in the next issue of "Marines" The Official Magazine of the Marine Corps.

Environmental issues

What does the Marine Corps do to protect the environment? Learn about the poster program, recycling and environmental conservation in the next issue of "Marines" The Official Magazine of the Marine Corps.

Including

from the trenches

Stories and images of Marines by Marine Corps Combat Correspondents at home and abroad.

corps shots

Photos from around the Corps.

scuttlebutt

New and upcoming technology and information for the Corps.

on liberty

Movie reviews, book reviews & crossword puzzle.

